

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-26 (canceled).

1 Claim 27 (new): A method of retrieving, through a terminal  
2 device, an electronic message from a server, the message  
3 having a header and a body containing characters, the method  
4 comprising the steps of:

5       establishing a communications link between the server  
6 and the terminal device;

7       transmitting, by the server to the terminal device, the  
8 header and first N characters of the body, where N is a  
9 predetermined integer, while holding back any attachments,  
10 and at least one flag, the flag indicating whether, as a  
11 remaining message part, any remaining characters of the body  
12 subsequent to said N characters or any attachments are then  
13 retrievable from the server;

14       presenting, by the terminal device, the header, the  
15 first N characters and an indication, responsive to the flag  
16 and indicating that the remaining message part is then  
17 retrievable, to a user of the terminal device;

18       sending, upon request of the user and in response to  
19 the indication, a request to the server to retrieve the  
20 remaining message part identified by the flag; and

21       transmitting, in response to the user request and from  
22 the server to the terminal device, P characters of the  
23 message body or a selected one of the attachments, P being

24 an integer number and said P characters occurring in the  
25 body subsequent to said N characters.

1 Claim 28 (new): The method recited in claim 27 wherein the  
2 at least one flag comprises a first flag indicative of any  
3 remaining characters and a second flag indicative of any  
4 attachments.

1 Claim 29 (new): The method recited in claim 27 further  
2 comprising the step, performed by the server, of determining  
3 a value of the integer N.

1 Claim 30 (new): The method recited in claim 27 further  
2 comprising the step, performed by the server, of erasing the  
3 message once no further text and no further attachments  
4 remain to be transmitted to the terminal device.

1 Claim 31 (new): The method recited in claim 27 further  
2 comprising the step, performed by the server, of retaining  
3 the message if any remaining text or any attachments have  
4 not yet been transmitted to the server.

1 Claim 32 (new): The method recited in claim 27 further  
2 comprising the step, performed by the server, of storing  
3 messages in a mailbox having a limited capacity, but erasing  
4 a partially transmitted one of the messages if additional  
5 capacity in the mailbox beyond the limited capacity is  
6 required to store the partially transmitted message.

1 Claim 33 (new): The method recited in claim 27 wherein the  
2 terminal device is a mobile handset or a PDA.

1 Claim 34 (new): A system for retrieving, through a terminal  
2 device, an electronic message from a server, the system  
3 comprising:

4 the server and the terminal device, wherein the message  
5 has a header and a body containing characters, the server  
6 and the terminal device being capable of establishing a  
7 communications link therebetween; and

8 wherein:

9 the server is arranged for transmitting, to the  
10 terminal device, the header and first N characters of the  
11 body, where N is a predetermined integer, while holding back  
12 any attachments, and at least one flag, the flag indicating  
13 whether, as a remaining message part, any remaining  
14 characters of the body subsequent to said N characters or  
15 any attachments are then retrievable from the server;

16 the terminal device is arranged for presenting the  
17 header, the first N characters and an indication, in  
18 response to the flag and indicating that the remaining  
19 message part is then retrievable, to a user of the terminal  
20 device and for sending, upon request by the user and in  
21 response to the indication, a request to the server to  
22 retrieve the remaining message part identified by the flag;  
23 and

24 the server, transmits to the terminal device and  
25 in response to the user request, P characters of the body or  
26 a selected one of the attachments, P being an integer number  
27 and said P characters occurring in the body subsequent to  
28 the N characters.

1 Claim 35 (new): The system recited in claim 34 wherein the  
2 at least one flag comprises a first flag indicative of any

3 remaining characters and a second flag indicative of any  
4 attachments.

1 Claim 36 (new): A terminal device for use in the system  
2 recited in claim 34, wherein the terminal device is capable  
3 of establishing a communications link with a server,  
4 receiving a header and first N characters of a body of a  
5 message, and at least one flag indicative of any remaining  
6 characters of the body or any attachments, the terminal  
7 device being arranged for requesting, in response to said at  
8 least one flag, the server to send P characters or a  
9 selected one of the attachments, P being an integer number  
10 and said P characters occurring in the body subsequent to  
11 said N characters.

1 Claim 37 (new): The terminal device recited in claim 36  
2 wherein the device is arranged for use in mobile telephony.